



On February 19th, the National Weather Service (NWS) in Wilmington, Ohio awarded Pendleton County with the distinction of being “Storm Ready”. This is a National program that recognizes the pro-active approach the county has taken to improve local hazardous weather operations. To become **Storm Ready** certified, the county had to meet certain criteria established by the National Weather Service to indicate the county was ready and prepared for a severe weather situation. The Storm Ready designation doesn't mean it is **storm proof**, since storms are still capable of causing damage no matter how prepared a county may be.

Pendleton County became one of 45 counties out of Kentucky's 120 to be declared "Storm Ready". Among the criteria that Pendleton County had to meet for achieving this distinction is:

- Establish a 24-hour Warning Point and Emergency Operations Center to receive and disseminate weather warnings.
- Have the ability to relay real-time storm reports to the National Weather Service.
- Have more than one way to receive severe weather forecasts and warnings
- Have more than one way to alert and warn the public
- Have methods to monitor local weather conditions and hydrometeorological data.

Finally, there are some formal administrative tasks, such as having visits to the NWS, visits by the NWS, a formal weather operations plan, and an annual emergency exercise.

Effective emergency preparedness requires collaboration and communication with agencies at the federal, state and local levels and this recognition from the NWS is an example of that ongoing effort.

About 90 percent of all Presidentially-declared disasters are weather-related, leading to about 500 deaths per year and nearly \$14 billion in damage. Storm Ready assists communities with developing the communication and safety skills needed to save lives and property — before and during the event.

[Click here](#) for more information about the designation.